

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08
SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
OMB-01 AID-05 DODE-00 L-03 /106 W
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P 091346Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9595
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL BUKAVU POUCH
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
US MISSION USUNNEW YORK 1515

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 4596

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS/
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, CG
SUBJECT: MOBUTU PLAN: CONSULTATIONS WITH BELGIANS IN KINSHASA

REF: BRUSSELS 08263 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: BELGIAN DIRECTOR OF PLANNING MALDAGUE AND ADVISOR
TO FOREIGN MINISTER ONCKELINX MET WITH AMBASSADOR CUTLER MAY 6 TO
BRIEF HIM ON THEIR JUST-COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOZ ON
THE MOBUTU PLAN. MALDAGUE DESCRIBED THE CONSULTATIONS AS HAVING
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GONE WELL BUT POINTS REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED. HE PRESENTED PRESI-
DENT MOBUTU WITH A BELGIAN REDRAFT OF MOBUTU PLAN, DESIGNED TO
ASSIST THE GOZ IN PREPARING ITS WORKING DOCUMENT FOR BRUSSELS
CONFERENCE IN MID-JUNE. THE BELGIAN DOCUMENT IS ESSENTIALLY A
BOILED-DOWN VERSION OF THE GOZ'S LATEST EFFORT. A FOLLOW-UP
MEETING IS SCHEDULED BETWEEN THE GOZ AND MEMBERS OF THE
MALDAGUE GROUP IN TWO WEEKS TO DISCUSS WHAT IS EXPECTED TO BE

THE GOZ'S FINAL DOCUMENT. BOTH MALDAGUE AND THE AMBASSADOR WERE IN AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE EXPLORATORY AND NONCOMMITTAL NATURE OF THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE, WHICH MALDAGUE INDICATED IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 13-14. END SUMMARY.

2. BELGIAN DIRECTOR OF PLANNING MALDAGUE, ADVISOR TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER ONCKELINX AND THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR MET WITH AMBASSADOR CUTLER AND MISSION OFFICERS MAY 6 TO DISCUSS THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MOBUTU PLAN, AND SPECIFICALLY THE

RESULTS OF MEETINGS WHICH MINISTER OF COOPERATION OUTERS, MALDAGUE AND ONCKELINX HAD JUST COMPLETED WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU, NIMY AND BOKANA, OF THE PRESIDENTIAL BUREAU, AND OTHER GOZ OFFICIALS. OUTERS, MALDAGUE AND ONCKELINX RETURNED TO BRUSSELS MAY 7.

2. MALDAGUE FELT THAT THE TALKS HAD GONE WELL; PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAD BEEN IN A GOOD MOOD. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOZ HAD FOCUSED ON A BELGIAN REDRAFT OF THE MOBUTU PLAN WHICH WAS PROVIDED TO GOZ AS AN AID IN PREPARING A FINAL WORKING DOCUMENT FOR THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE IN JUNE. ONCKELINX HANDED AMBASSADOR CUTLER A COPY OF THE DRAFT, STRESSING THAT NEITHER DONORS NOR THE GOZ SHOULD KNOW THAT WE HAVE THE BELGIAN DOCUMENT. (SUBSEQUENTLY MALDAGUE ALSO PROVIDED AMBASSADOR WITH A COPY OF LETTER TRANSMITTING THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL TO GOZ.)

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3. THE EMBASSY'S SUMMARY AND COMMENTS ON THE NEW BELGIAN DOCUMENT WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL. IT IS A GREATLY BOILED-DOWN VERSION OF THE GOZ'S MOST RECENT DRAFT OF THE MOBUTU PLAN WHICH DAS WALKER RECENTLY OBTAINED IN BRUSSELS (REFTEL). MALDAGUE HOPED THE GOZ WOULD USE THE NEW BELGIAN DRAFT AS A BASIS FOR DEVELOPING A FINAL DOCUMENT FOR USE AT THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE IN JUNE. MALDAGUE EMPHASIZED THAT THE NEW BELGIAN DRAFT REPRESENTED "SUGGESTIONS" FOR IMMEDIATE AND LIMITED GOZ ACTION, INCLUDING:

- IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AT BANK OF ZAIRE,
- AGREEMENT ON A NEW IMF STABILIZATION PROGRAM,
- SEVERAL URGENT MEASURES SUCH AS RESOLVING THE GASOLINE SHORT-AGE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND
- A REDUCED LIST OF PRIORITY INVESTMENT PROJECTS.

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

4. AMBASSADOR CUTLER MENTIONED THAT THE INITIAL MOBUTU PLAN FINANCING OF Z1.8 BILLION APPEARED AMBITIOUS AND INQUIRED WHAT PRICE TICKET THE NEW BELGIAN DRAFT CARRIED. MALDAGUE DID NOT RESPOND SPECIFICALLY BUT STATED THAT THE SUM WAS MUCH MORE MODEST AND WAS ONLY AN "ILLUSTRATIVE" ESTIMATE IN ANY CASE. (ACCORDING TO THE BELGIAN DOCUMENT, TOTAL FINANCING OVER THREE YEARS WOULD AMOUNT TO Z281,791,000.) IT WAS UP TO THE GOZ TO QUANTIFY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE A REALISTIC EMERGENCY PLAN OF ACTION AND THIS WOULD BE THE TOPIC OF GOB/GOZ DISCUSSIONS IN TWO WEEKS.

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5. MALDAGUE SAID MOBUTU HAD MADE CLEAR HIS DESIRE THAT THE GOZ PARTICIPATE IN THE BRUSSELS MEETING, AND THE GOB HAD AGREED. HENCE THE MEETING, NOW SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 13-14, WOULD BE JOINTLY OPENED BY THE BELGIAN AND ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, WITH SUBSEQUENT WORKING SESSIONS BEING TURNED OVER TO THE "TECHNICIANS." AMBASSADOR CUTLER EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE

MEETING NOT BE ELEVATED TO A LEVEL WHERE THERE WOULD BE ADDITIONAL PRESSURES TO TURN IT INTO A PLEDGING SESSION. THE BELGIANS AGREED, AND EMPHASIZED THAT MINISTERIAL LEVEL REPS FROM OTHER DONORS WOULD NOT BE EXPECTED. THE GOB WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THE WORKING SESSIONS BY THEIR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N. THE BELGIANS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FRENCH WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF OF THE AFRICAN SECTION AT THE QUAI, GEORGY.

6. MALDAGUE RE-EMPHASIZED THE EXPLORATORY AND NONCOMMITTAL NATURE OF THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE, WHICH WOULD MERELY OPEN THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. IT WAS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOZ MEET WITH ALL MEMBERS OF THE DONOR COMMUNITY TOGETHER SO THAT THE GOZ UNDERSTOOD A COMMON MESSAGE. GOZ DISCUSSIONS TO DATE HAD BEEN LARGELY RESTRICTED TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, RAISING THE CHANCE OF CONFLICTING SIGNALS. MALDAGUE SAID THAT 10 COUNTRIES HAD BEEN INVITED AS WELL AS THE WORLD BANK, IMF AND EEC, BUT IT WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT EITHER SAUDI ARABIA OR IRAN WOULD PARTICIPATE.

7. THE BELGIANS ALSO REITERATED THAT THEIR ROLE WOULD BE ONE OF INITIAL COOPERATION. THEY DID NOT WISH TO FOLLOW THE DUTCH EXAMPLE WITH RESPECT TO INDONESIA WHEN A SECRETARIAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE HAGUE. THE BELGIANS AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR CUTLER THAT THE WORLD BANK WAS AN APPROPRIATE FRAMEWORK FOR ONGOING CONSULTATIONS ON ZAIRE. THEY BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT THE WORLD BANK WAS NOT ORGANIZED AT PRESENT TO DO THIS, AND
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DONOR COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO PERSUADE THE BANK TO ASSUME THE NEW ROLE. THEY FELT THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP FRAMEWORK, WITH ANNUAL MEETINGS, MIGHT BE INADEQUATE, AND THERE WOULD BE A NEED FOR MORE FREQUENT, INFORMAL MEETINGS. THEY SAID BELGIUM HAS AS YET MADE NO FORMAL DEMARCHE TO THE WORLD BANK ON THE SUBJECT, AND THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAD ONLY REQUESTED THE BANK'S ASSISTANCE IN GENERAL TERMS.

8. AMBASSADOR CUTLER STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LINK BETWEEN THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE GOZ'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IMF FOR STANDBY AGREEMENT AND THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE U.S. DID NOT WISH TO APPEAR INVOLVED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH OBVIOUSLY MUST REMAIN A MATTER BETWEEN THE GOZ AND IMF. DURING THE BERGSTEN VISIT, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION OF THE TERMS OF A NEW STABILIZATION PROGRAM. MALDAGUE SAID THIS WAS ALSO THE BELGIAN POSITION. AMBASSADOR CUTLER THEN INQUIRED WHETHER THE BELGIANS MIGHT POSTPONE THE BRUSSELS MEETING SHOULD THE GOZ/IMF NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN OR FAIL TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS. AFTER SOME HESITATION, ONCKELINX SAID THAT FROM THE POLITICAL STANDPOING A POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.
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